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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254085

FOR AMB. RAWSON FROM AF/C - K. AISTON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: AMGT RW  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SEPTEL ON UN/UNHCR FINDINGS ON RPF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, SENT TODAY (MONDAY), INDICATES THAT WE ARE SENDING TALKING POINTS SEPARATELY. THOSE POINTS WILL BE CLEARED AND SENT TUESDAY FOR USE IN A LIKELY MEETING WITH GOR OFFICIALS WEDNESDAY. HOWEVER, IF THE UN MAKES ITS DEMARCHE WITH KAGAME ON TUESDAY (WE UNDERSTAND KOFI ANNAN HAD A MEETING WITH TWAGIRAMUNGU TODAY, BUT THE UN DOES NOT CONSIDER IT "AUTHORITATIVE") AND IN THE EVENT YOU CONFIDENTIAL

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MANAGE TO ARRANGE A MEETING FOR U/S WIRTH AND PRU ON TUESDAY NIGHT FOLLOWING AN ANNAN/KAGAME MEETING, I AM SENDING ALONG THESE DRAFT TALKING POINTS SO YOU WOULD HAVE SOMETHING IN HAND FOR THE MEETING:

BEGIN POINTS

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT A UNHCR INVESTIGATIVE TEAM HAS UNCOVERED POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY RPF SOLDIERS OVER THE PAST WEEKS AND MONTHS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE UN HAS BROUGHT THESE REPORTS TO YOUR ATTENTION.

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THESE REPORTS AND WOULD

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LIKE TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE. ARE THE REPORTS TRUE? WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT DONE TO LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS AND ADDRESS THEM?

-- WE URGE YOU TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HALT ANY AND ALL ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, TO ENSURE COMPLETE DISCIPLINE OF ALL GOVERNMENT TROOPS, TO INVESTIGATE THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND TO SEE THAT THOSE WHO DIRECTED, LED, OR COMMITTED THE ATTACKS ARE PUNISHED.

-- WE ALSO URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE UN, UNHCR, UNAMIR, AND THE COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S EFFORT TO END HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN RWANDA, BRING PROTECTION TO RWANDAN CIVILIANS, AND BRING PERPETRATORS OF ATROCITIES TO JUSTICE.

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3. GIVEN THAT DART TEAM HAS IMMINENT TRAVEL PLANS, OFDA REQUESTS (AND WE CONCUR) THAT YOU MEET WITH DART/RWANDA ON TUESDAY TO DETERMINE HOW THE UN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MAY IMPACT ON THE WORK AND SAFETY OF DART. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE DART TEAM UNDERSTANDS AND RESPECTS THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY UNTIL THE UN HAS GONE PUBLIC.

4. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED/UNCLEARED PRESS GUIDANCE, WITH Q'S AND A'S FOR BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE UN GOES PUBLIC WITH THE INFORMATION, ALONG WITH AN UNCLEARED/UNCLEARED DRAFT STATEMENT THAT COULD BE MADE AFTER THE UN FINDINGS ARE MADE PUBLIC. WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. U/S WIRTH, DAS BUSHNELL, AND POST MAY ALSO WANT TO DRAW ON THIS AS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE FOR ANY QUERIES AT POST.

BEGIN Q'S AND A'S

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE RPF HAS COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES? WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A.--IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF HARASSMENT AND REPRISALS BY RPF SOLDIERS AND RETURNING TUTSI REFUGEES AGAINST HUTUS, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEASTERN RWANDA.

--FROM THE TIME WE FIRST HEARD THESE REPORTS, WE URGED THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION. WE MADE THIS POINT BOTH THROUGH OUR

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EMBASSY IN KIGALI AND IN MEETINGS BETWEEN VISITING U.S.  
OFFICIALS AND RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE  
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PRESIDENTIAL MISSION ALSO RAISED THESE REPORTS.

--THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT REPRISALS ARE NOT THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED THE ATTACKS WERE ISOLATED INCIDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE WORKING TO ENSURE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

(IF THE UN HAS NOT YET GONE PUBLIC):

--SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE PROBLEM MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED. THE UN IS INVESTIGATING AND INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE INTEND TO DO THE SAME. UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH ARRIVES IN RWANDA TODAY AND, ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, WILL RAISE OUR CONCERN WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

(IF THE UN HAS GONE PUBLIC)

--SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION BY THE UN AND OTHERS NOW SUGGESTS THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ATTACKS AGAINST HUTUS IS MUCH GREATER THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED. THERE APPEARS TO BE A PATTERN OF ATTACKS ON THE HUTU CIVILIAN POPULATION. ATTACKS HAVE OCCURRED IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH THE ABUSES ARE MOST WIDESPREAD IN THE SOUTH AND EAST. WE HAVE NO CASUALTY FIGURES.

--WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UN HAS PRESENTED ITS FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED ITS SERIOUS CONCERN. IT HAS CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO SUCH ATTACKS. UNDER  
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SECRETARY WIRTH ARRIVES IN RWANDA TODAY AND, ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, INTENDS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THESE ATTACKS MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY AND A FULL INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

Q: WHO IS DOING THE ATTACKING? DOES THIS REFLECT A POLICY OF THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT?

(IF THE UN HAS NOT YET GONE PUBLIC)

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A:--THE REPORTS ARE STILL BEING INVESTIGATED BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR RPF TROOPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE DO NOT KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER THEY WERE ACTING ON THEIR OWN OR WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE IN THE MILITARY COMMAND OR GOVERNMENT.

(ASSUMING THE UN HAS GONE PUBLIC)

A:--RPF SOLDIERS APPARENTLY COMMITTED MOST OF THE ATTACKS. THE PATTERN OF ACTIVITY SUGGESTS THAT SOLDIERS MAY HAVE ACTED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHER-UPS IN THE MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT.

Q: OTHER THAN DEMARCHEs, WHAT ELSE ARE THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

A:--THE U.S. IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE UN TO COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 4,200 UNAMIR PERSONNEL IN RWANDA; THE 5,500 FORCE SHOULD BE FULLY DEPLOYED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

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--UNAMIR HAS AS ITS MANDATE TO HELP PROTECT CIVILIAN POPULATIONS. WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE UN WAYS TO REDIRECT DEPLOYMENT OF SOME OF THE FORCE TO THE AREAS WHERE RPF ABUSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

--IN ADDITION, WE ARE PUSHING TO HAVE THE UN COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FIRST GROUP OF 25 SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

--THE U.S. HAS PLEDGED A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF 750,000 AND HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT OF MONITORS. A TOTAL OF 150 MONITORS IS PLANNED, AND THE UN WILL BE APPEALING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL MONITORS.

--WE ARE ALSO PRESSING FOR RAPID COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, OR OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES. THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS INTERIM REPORT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, AND WE INTEND TO MOVE QUICKLY THEREAFTER IN THE SECURITY

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COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TRIBUNAL.

Q: WOULD THE TRIBUNAL ALSO PROSECUTE CASES INVOLVING RPF ATTACKS?

A:--WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRIBUNAL MUST BE EVEN-HANDED IN METING OUT JUSTICE AND THAT ALL PERSONS

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WHO HAVE COMMITTED VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN RWANDA SINCE APRIL -- REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THEY MAY HAVE FOUGHT FOR OR SUPPORTED -- SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Q: WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO THESE REPORTS HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA?

A:--WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAT OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTANCE DEPEND ON SERIOUS EFFORTS BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROMOTE REFUGEE RETURN AND, ULTIMATELY, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

--WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT QUICKLY TO END THESE ATTACKS AND INVESTIGATE PAST INCIDENTS SO THAT INNOCENT LIVES ARE PROTECTED AND REFUGEES WILL FEEL SAFE TO RETURN. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR AND MOVE TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

END DRAFT Q'S AND A'S

BEGIN DRAFT STATEMENT

U.S. DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF RPF ATROCITIES

THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY SOLDIERS OF THE RPF ARMY. INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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ORGANIZATIONS NOW INDICATE THAT RPF SOLDIERS HAVE ENGAGED IN ATTACKS ON HUTU CIVILIANS IN MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH AND EAST. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED, IT APPEARS THAT RPF

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SOLDIERS HAVE KILLED CIVILIANS BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE FIGHTING WITH FORMER GOVERNMENT FORCES. THE UNITED STATES CONDEMS THESE ATTACKS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS AND CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA TO PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO SUCH ATTACKS AND TO UNDERTAKE A FULL INVESTIGATION.

WHEN REPORTS FIRST SURFACED OF POSSIBLE ATTACKS ON HUTUS, THE UNITED STATES BROUGHT THE REPORTS TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES IN KIGALI AND ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION. BOTH OUR EMBASSY IN KIGALI AND HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON RAISED THIS ISSUE REPEATEDLY. WE NOW HAVE CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT THESE ATTACKS DID OCCUR, AND ON A MUCH WIDER SCALE THAN FIRST THOUGHT. THE UN HAS TAKEN THE EVIDENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. WE HAVE MADE THESE SAME POINTS TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

AS WE PRESS TO SEE THAT THESE ABUSES STOP IMMEDIATELY, WE ARE ALSO WORKING TO EXPEDITE DEPLOYMENT OF THE REMAINING UNAMIR TROOPS AS WELL AS THE CONTINGENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS THE UN IS WORKING TO DEPLOY. THIS INCREASED FOREIGN PRESENCE SHOULD SERVE AS A REAL DETERRENT TO FURTHER ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS. WE WILL ALSO PRESS TO MAKE SURE THAT A UN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL IS IN PLACE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER VIOLATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN LAW ON ALL SIDES.

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WE WOULD STRONGLY CAUTION ELEMENTS OF THE FORMER SO-CALLED INTERIM GOVERNMENT FROM USING THESE REPORTS AS A PRETEXT FOR FURTHER HOSTILE BEHAVIOR, EITHER IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS OR IN RWANDA ITSELF. THIS GROUP AND THEIR SUPPORTERS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GENOCIDAL ACTS LEADING TO THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND INNOCENT CIVILIANS. THEY ARE IN NO MORAL POSITION TO SEE THESE REPORTS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR HEINOUS ACTS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN RWANDA, WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE TO IT THAT CIVILIANS IN RWANDA ARE PROTECTED FROM ETHNIC ATTACKS OR REPRISALS.

5. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

CHRISTOPHER

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